

135:36
ms

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippians to vote on Personhood



PRO-PERSONHOOD — Former Arkansas Governor and Southern Baptist minister Mike Huckabee addresses associational missions directors Sept. 8 at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton, during a swing through Mississippi to promote passage of Amendment 26 on the November general election ballot. Amendment 26, also known as the Personhood Amendment, would change the Mississippi Constitution to define personhood as beginning at the moment of fertilization. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Amendment 26 brings issue to statewide stage on November ballots

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

On the same day the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled that Amendment 26 defining when human life begins could appear on the November general election ballot in Mississippi, former Arkansas Governor and Southern Baptist minister Mike Huckabee warned a gathering of Amendment 26 supporters in Jackson to expect a dirty campaign to kill the amendment from groups like Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

"You have no idea how many millions of dollars will pour into Mississippi to protect abortion," Huckabee said at the Yes on 26 dinner at First Church, Jackson. "This is not about women. This is about elevating wealth among those who promote and profit from abortion."

Huckabee pointed specifically to Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country and the recipient of hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars in the form of federal grants. A Planned Parenthood chaplain and homosexual activist from Seattle recently masqueraded as a Southern Baptist minister at an Amendment 26 hearing in Tupelo (Search YouTube for "Planned Parenthood Deception in Mississippi").

"No one has the right to tell another person they are of less value. We are on this earth by the grace of God and we are to affirm life. Who is more innocent than an unborn child?" asked Huckabee, a former president of the Arkansas Baptist State

Convention and presently the host of his own show on FoxNews.

Earlier in the day, the Mississippi Supreme Court voted 7-2 to dismiss an appeal filed against Amendment 26 by the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

"Nothing in our Constitution as it exists today gives this Court the authority to review the validity of a proposal prior to its enactment, which is exactly what Plaintiffs request this Court to do," wrote Associate Justice Randy G. Pierce. "This Court is without power to interfere with pre-election proposals, because to do so may place the administration of government at the footstool of the judiciary... Just as this Court cannot prohibit legislators from offering proposals in the House or Senate, this Court cannot impede voters from submitting proposals through the voter initiative process."

For a listing of how Mississippi's Supreme Court justices voted on the appeal, see Practical Principles on page eight of this issue of The Baptist Record. The entire decision can be accessed at <http://www.mssc.state.ms.us/Images/Opinions/CO71836.pdf>.

"This amendment will ensure that all human beings in Mississippi are protected under the Bill of Rights which states that, 'No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property except by due process of law,' and the unborn are no less subject to these God-ordained rights under the Mississippi Constitution than any other human being," wrote Rob Chambers, consultant for the

Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The Christian Action Commission has endorsed the Amendment 26 effort.

Opponents of Amendment 26 spoke out against the proposal shortly after the Supreme Court rendered its decision.

"A measure will be on the ballot that will allow the government to dictate what is a private matter that's best decided by a woman, her family, and within the context of her faith. Mississippi voters should reject this intrusive and dangerous measure," said Nsombi Lambright, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi, in a CNN interview.

The exact wording of Amendment 26 is as follows:

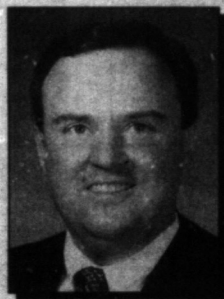
Section 33. Person Defined. As used in this Article III of the state constitution, "The term 'person' or 'persons' shall include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning, or the functional equivalent thereof." This initiative shall not require any additional revenue for implementation.

For more information on Amendment 26 and the Yes on 26 campaign, contact the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rmccollum@christianaction.com. Web site: www.christianaction.com.

SEP 26 2011
#BXNPMY *****CAR-RT LUT+CO18
#0000 2910 9154#
005 DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC 5968 P1
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Rebekah Ray
rray@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson
Sharon Neff, Cleveland
John Price, Charleston
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 135 • NUMBER 36
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

Keeping churches safe for children

The dreadful news came last week. A staffer at a Mississippi Baptist church was arrested and charged with eight counts of gratification of lust that allegedly occurred over 20 years ago involving young boys whose families he had befriended while serving in two Jackson-area churches.

The charges came on the heels of John Langworthy's public admission in early August that he had "sexual indiscretions with younger males," as he explained it, while serving in churches in both Mississippi and Texas. That's when his alleged Mississippi victims, who are presently unidentified but now adults well into their 30s, began to come forward. The number of accusers is presently up to five.

Let it be clearly stated here that Langworthy is innocent until proven guilty. The nature of the alleged crimes does not put him beyond our basic principles of justice and fairness. He will have his day in court, as well he should. If convicted, he should be punished. In the meantime, all concerned and related parties need our prayers. The Baptist Record will refrain from disclosing names of victims, family members, and churches, as well as the sordid details that do not serve the interests of the readers of this family newspaper. There's been plenty of that type of material already published in the secular media.

That's really not all this sad story is about, anyway. The individuals and organizations involved will have to sort their way through this mess, but there are a host of lessons for us to learn as guardians of the children entrusted to our care during their time at church. That's an important part of this story.

First, it's apparent that not enough background checking on Langworthy was done. It's a fact that he doesn't have a criminal record and would not have been flagged during a formal background check, but churches simply have to do a better job of sharing with one another information about errant staffers.

There are legal matters to take into consideration and churches cannot act on a whim when allegations are made. However, in this case there allegedly were past admissions by Langworthy when confronted by church authorities, but he was allowed to quietly move on to other church fields without that information following him.

I believe we are about to experience one of the most significant crisis events in the history of the modern church: the unintended yet devastating results of two decades of age-segregated worship.

In our attempt to give people what they want, many churches now offer multiple worship services based on musical styles, (i.e., contemporary, traditional, modern) in an attempt to reach specific "target" groups. The result has been that church families have become segregated by age based on the music they like.

In many churches, students can attend on Sunday and Wednesday — and never encounter a senior adult. Likewise, senior adults who attend every week never have contact with students and young adults. While this may be successful in giving people a musical diet of what they want, it breeds dissension and is contrary to Scripture.

This approach has resulted in us raising a generation of young Christians with no connection to the body of Christ as a whole. Just as devastating, we've paralyzed older generations with irrelevancy and self-centeredness by disconnecting them from modern movements of God.

Students need the maturity of older generations, and those who are more mature need the passion of younger Christians.

This has to stop. Within the bounds of propriety and after all legal considerations have been met, churches must communicate with each other to prevent Langworthy situations from occurring in the future. Too many churches are comfortable with simply dismissing a wayward staff member and then going about their business. This allows unworthy people who have had problems to land in other sensitive positions in other churches elsewhere, with the new church having no knowledge of what occurred at his/her last place of service.

Churches must have the courage to look deeply into a prospective employee's background — much deeper than the minimum required by secular standards — and churches where the prospective employee has previously worked must have the courage to provide any adverse information that is available (again, all within legal bounds).

Secondly, churches that aren't conducting background checks must begin to do so immediately. This includes checks on volunteer workers as well as prospective staff members. A church can't do too many background checks. The expense of conducting background checks is tiny, compared to the cost of not doing background checks. Think about it.

Thirdly, get a lawyer. An accurate count of the number of churches that conduct day-to-day business without legal counsel available would probably be stunning. If your church doesn't have a formal relationship with an attorney well-versed in church law, it's time to start pushing for one.

Lastly, help is available from the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which has an excellent publication entitled, *Keeping your Church Out of Court*. In addition to information on such important subjects as church organization, liability, taxes, and employment law, there are sample forms for employment applications and background checks.

The cost of the *Keeping Your Church Out of Court* material is \$25. It can be obtained by contacting the Pastor/Leadership Development Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3305 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 305. E-mail: awoodward@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

GUEST OPINION:

Age-segregated worship a total mess

By L. Lavon Gray
Jackson



While the slogan, "Have it your way," may work for Burger King, it's been a disaster for the church! When we pursue our own preferences, we revert to what C.S. Lewis called "chronological snobbery," in which older generations only find value in our traditions and heritage, while younger generations only find relevance in what is current and trendy. The truth is we need both.

As a result of this focus on ourselves, Southern Baptist churches are paying a huge price: • 70% of all SBC churches are declining or plateaued.

• Baptisms, worship attendance, and overall membership in the SBC declined in 2010.

• In 2010, baptisms fell to their lowest level in 60 years.

• Seven in 10 Protestants ages 18-30 who went to church regularly in high school say they quit attending by age 23.

• Researchers say that one of the main reasons for the decline

of the SBC is a decrease in the percentage of younger generations participating in church life.

• Unless something changes, one-half of all SBC churches will close their doors by the year 2030.

Theological Issue

The importance of unity in the body of Christ is central in Scripture. Paul reminded us of this in I Corinthians 12:12-14: *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body — whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

Most churches are comprised of four generations with different preferences and spiritual gifts. Scripture teaches this is good thing. The body needs all parts to be healthy. In

order to achieve unity, however, it means we must place the needs of others above our own. Folks on both ends of the musical spectrum are more than happy to be supportive as long as you sing the songs they like. On the other hand, many are unwilling to place their own preferences aside in order to achieve unity. In fact, most are willing to "cut off an arm" simply because they don't like the same music the others do!

What Now?

We must stop separating people in worship based on musical preferences. As a father of three daughters, I want my girls to sing the songs they love such as Everlasting God and Blessed Be Your Name, but not at the exclusion of theological strongholds such as All Hail the Power and The Solid Rock. I also want them to have the benefit of the wisdom and spiritual depth of worshipping with more mature Christians.

When it comes to worship, some of us need to grow up and others of us need to get over it! We are instructed to be unified through Christ and that must begin with worship.

Gray is minister of music and worship at First Church, Jackson. He can be contacted at www.lavongray.com.

Baptist units respond as flooding worsens

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief coordinators are being forced to re-calibrate response plans for the Northeast because of a second round of flooding caused by heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Lee, which has forced the evacuation of as many as 120,000 residents in Pennsylvania and New York.

The flooding of the Susquehanna River — expected to crest as high as 41 feet — caused the evacuation of some 100,000 residents in the Wyoming Valley, Pa., area, including up to 75,000 in Wilkes-Barre. Another 6,000-10,000 people evacuated homes in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capital.

As a result of the Susquehanna River flooding plus the nearby Chenango River, another 20,000 were evacuated from Binghamton, N.Y. (pop. 47,000), where water covered downtown streets and climbed halfway up lampposts. Residents are evacuating via buses and boats, with National Guard helicopters on standby, according to news reports.

Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson and head of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, said most of the Mississippi units deployed earlier have returned to the state.

"In North Carolina, we still have one chainsaw unit working. The other seven teams have already returned. They were able to clear about 50 sites."

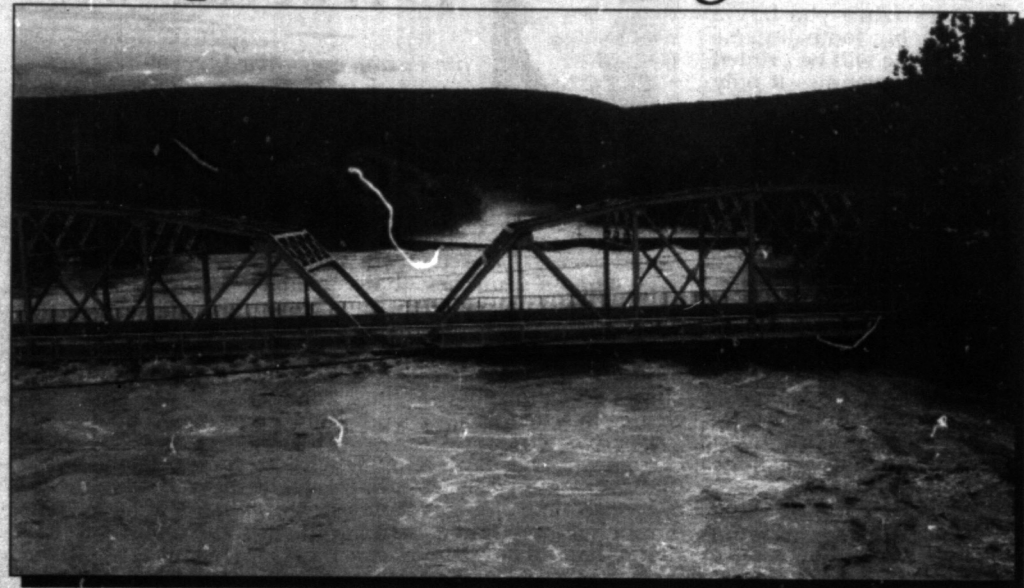
"The feeding team prepared about 5,500 meals. We had 22 people involved in feeding. We had a team from Pearl River Association in New York. They prepared over 17,000 meals," Didlake said.

Pennsylvania is seeing the third-highest flooding in the state's history. The one-two punch of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee generated rainfall so torrential that the Susquehanna River hasn't been this high since 1972, when Hurricane Agnes hit the area.

Some of the same areas flooded out by Irene two weeks ago are again inundated by the heavy rains generated by Lee. Southern Baptist disaster relief leaders know there's plenty of mud-out and chainsaw work yet to do but until the water begins to recede, recovery work is impossible.

Disaster relief efforts also are being hampered by unrelenting rain in Maryland, where hundreds of people were ordered to leave Havre de Grace and Port Deposit, Md.

"We have chainsaw teams in Leonardtown (Md.) who can't do more than watch the rain come down," said Ellen Udovich, disaster relief director for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. "It's



DISASTROUS LEVELS — Flooding from the Susquehanna River brought on by a pair of large hurricanes closed several roads and bridges around Montoursville, Pa., including the Broad Street Bridge. (Twitpic photo courtesy The Weather Channel)

frustrating for them since they have 112 jobs still open. We just need it to stop raining so we can get the work done."

Ed Greene, Southern Baptist disaster relief's incident commander for upper New York State, said not only is flooding closing roads but mudslides are being created as well.

"We have 179 roads closed in New York State, 25 bridges out, and 20,000 without power," Greene said from Washingtonville. "It's pretty widespread. Flooding is everywhere and it's hard to get around. Hundreds of homes originally flooded by Irene have been re-flooded by the tropical storm and we have no recovery teams in place."

Greene said hard-hit areas around Prattville, Middleburg, Schoharie and Margaretville, N.Y., have been evacuated.

"It's going to get worse," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who urged residents to heed the evacuation orders rather than wait until the flood danger is obvious.

Southern Baptist disaster relief feeding units from state Baptist conventions in New York, Mississippi, Virginia (SBCV and VBMB), Florida, Maryland, North Carolina and Kentucky have now prepared and delivered some 284,000 meals since Irene struck the East Coast on Aug. 28.

Because of the new flooding and evacuation in Binghamton, the Red Cross has requested that the SBDR feeding unit from Kentucky — based for the last week at Trinity Church in Schenectady — increase its daily hot meal count to 8,000 and produce an additional 8,000 box lunches.

With support from 125 volunteers from the New York

Baptist Convention, the Kentucky Baptists were able to meet the Red Cross request. The Kentucky feeding unit already had been cooking 5,000-6,000 meals a day.

"As in the past, this again showed the Red Cross how fast, efficiently, and flexibly Southern Baptists can react in times of disaster," said Bruce Poss, disaster coordinator for the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga.

Poss added that the Red Cross also has asked Southern Baptist disaster relief to deploy a 30,000-meal-a-day unit in the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., area, a request which is under consideration.

In Maryland, House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer visited Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers serving in areas devastated by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

"In the past several weeks, Maryland's 5th district has experienced tremendous damage as a result of extreme weather conditions," Hoyer said, but neighbors assisted the Congressman without help from disaster relief teams.

statement Sept. 8. "This week's storms added an additional burden to those already impacted by Hurricane Irene and created new challenges that we must deal with in the days ahead."

Hoyer, who lives in Charlotte Hall, Md., added, "As I visited affected communities over the last week, I saw the overwhelming support of neighbors helping neighbors and know that spirit will continue as all of us at the local, state, and federal level work to ensure that residents and businesses have the resources they need to address challenges in the wake of these storms."

Richard Logsdon, director of missions for Potomac Association in Maryland, said Hoyer greeted relief volunteers and community members warmly. "Basically, he thanked us for what we were doing," said Logsdon.

Nineteen trees fell in Hoyer's own yard, Logsdon said, but neighbors assisted the Congressman without help from disaster relief teams.

Looking back

10 years ago

Sixty-one mission team members from ten different Mississippi churches journey to Sonora, Mexico, May 25 — June 2, to minister in the villages of La Mariz, Valdez, and Division of the North.

20 years ago

Communism's crash in the rapidly disintegrating Soviet Union triggers the Foreign Mission Board's first "Green Alert" to seize missions opportunities amid social upheaval. "We need to do as much as we can as soon as we can," says Keith Parks, board president.

50 years ago

Evangelist Billy Graham suggests that the United Nations consider his three-point program which he said would wake up the American people, frighten their enemies, and encourage those living under communism.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 36



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

GUKTJ VQ KJQXQBNXQ,
ULC RXUV USGUVD,
KJUK VQ WUV MQ
UTTNOLKQC GNXXJV
KN QDTURQ USS
KJQDQ KJHLZD KJUK
DJUSS TNWQ KN RUDD,
ULC KN DKULC MQI-
NXQ KJQ DNL NB WUL.
SOFQ KGQLKV-NLQ:
KJHXKV-DHP

Clue not available

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Seventeen: Twenty-five

Correction:

The special Mississippi Baptist Foundation (MBF) insert in the issue of September 8 incorrectly listed the MBF toll-free telephone number. The correct number is (800) 748-1651. The incorrect information was provided by MBF, and The Baptist Record regrets the error.

TBA

For those of you who are sports enthusiasts, and even for those of you who are not, oftentimes when you buy a ticket to a big football game the start time will be printed on it, but sometimes it only has TBA. Schedules that are put out by schools about their athletic programs will have games announced with the place, the opponent, and the time will be TBA. Of course, TBA stands for "To Be Announced." It is always amazing to me how that works. Get this picture! On a Saturday afternoon in some big football stadium, 40,000 or 50,000 and maybe even 60,000 or 70,000 people are going to show up for a pre-kickoff time: TBA.

You would think that large universities with multimillion dollar programs and big budgets for sports information and operations could put the time on their tickets, but as many of you know, there are multiple reasons why they do not. It could be that as the season progresses they are stacking up the wins and they are about to play some big opponent so the big time television networks want to put them in prime-time instead of having them on when not many people will be watching. When that happens, it means that the TV payoff will be considerably more and just in case that comes about they want it TBA. Here is the miracle. All of these thousands of folks know when to arrive and when to be in their seats for the kickoff.

Now the reason this gets my attention is because from time to time I have seen churches try to change the time of the service because of some need in the community or in their particular setting. They may normally have 100 to 200 in worship and find it almost impossible to get the word out to the folks so that they can be there at the changed appointed hour. What if a church put out its schedule of services listing that every week they would have Sunday morning services at 11:00 a.m. except on Labor Day Weekend, Memorial Day Weekend, and Christmas? Those times would be TBA. I can only

imagine the buzz that would take place and even the outrage that might come from some that such a thought would even exist. Actually, I have known churches that got into such a heated debate that unchristian attitudes were expressed and I thought the church was almost going to split over the change in schedule.

I have presided over church business meetings that were going to discuss proposed time changes. You would have thought a crucifixion had been proposed. So my question as I ponder TBA is what makes it possible that all of these folks seemingly without being upset and with very little reaction or rancor just pay attention and get there for the game? In order for that to happen, three things must take place for the thousands of people who are going to participate.

The first thing is they must be flexible. Those who are going to attend are willing to sacrifice their own schedules and their attitudes for the sake of the team. What if a time change at church would actually accommodate the people you were trying to reach the most, those who need to know Christ rather than those who already know Him? If we are actually going to try to reach the people that the Lord put here for us to reach, we might consider options that would accommodate them more than us.

I remember some years ago a church started having a Bible Study during the week at a time when some factory workers who were working on weekends could come because they could not make it to the Bible study on Sunday morning at the appointed hour. The thought that seemed to dominate many people's conversation was if they

could not come on Sunday morning that was tough. Sometimes we do become entrenched in our ways and inflexible to the point that we forget about the very mission for which we exist and the very people that we are trying to reach.

A second thing that people must have to be a part of a God experience TBA is that they must be focused. Those who are going to the event must be focused on the reality that what is going to take place is more important than they are. If you go to a big sporting event the competition, the meeting, and the event is more important than any one of the fans or even all of them put together. It is more important than the coach, trainers, or any individual player. Too often whatever is taking place in our churches is more about what "I" want, what "I" like, what time "I" want things to happen, and the way "I" want it to happen than anything or anybody including the Lord and His mission. When you stop and think about it, you realize that is not the case at all. It is not an event just for me. It is not so much about just meeting my needs as it is about the great event of us coming to meet with the Lord and sharing His glorious Good News with others. We need a laser beam focus on who we are as the people of God, why we are here, and a beyond

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

myself look at what all of us should be doing together.

One final thing that is important in order to have a sense of a TBA event, whether we do it or not, is we need to be fantastic. Now you know that most people who care about sports are generally referred to as fans. Most of the time people say that is just a shortening of fanatic. That may be, but oftentimes they are fantastic too. These are people who are passionately interested in their team, the game, and help make the sport what it is. They are fantastic and do whatever it takes to arrange their time to be a part of a TBA experience. How many people do you know whose hearts are so focused on the Lord and doing what He wants them to do that everything else is secondary? All of the other pushing and pulling for priorities in their lives just have to take second place.

It was Jesus who said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all of these other things will be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). He is first and those who give Him first place, total loyalty are the fantastic people that make a difference in the Kingdom and the Kingdom makes a difference in them. Now I doubt that your church is ever going to have a TBA event. I don't know that I have ever heard of one. I can tell you this: If we shaped up our hearts and lives to be so focused on an experience with God like fantastic sports fans do their game, we might find that what we do becomes far more meaningful.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



1. Fellowship Church, Starkville



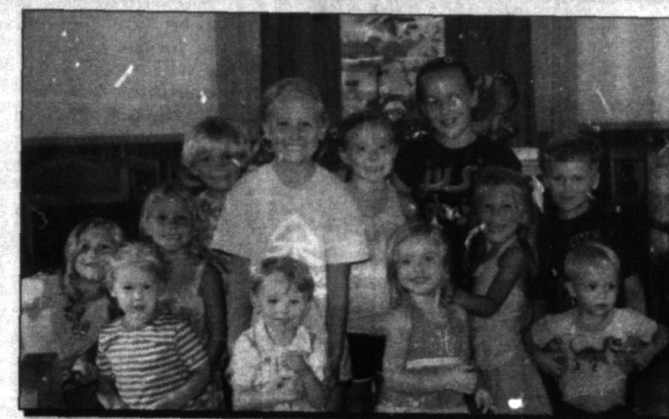
2. Canaan Church, Benton-Tippah

1. Fellowship Church, Starkville: Vacation Bible School; shown are the participants.

2. Canaan Church, Benton-Tippah Association: Vacation Bible School; church gained two families; first VBS in five years. Shown are the participants.

3. West Church, West: Vacation Bible School; shown are the participants.

4. Valley Park Church, Sharkey-Issaquena Association: July 18 - 22; total enrollment, 51; average attendance, 45; offering of \$464 given to the Baptist Children's Village; Lee Wilkes, director; Ronnie Purser, pastor; shown are the participants.

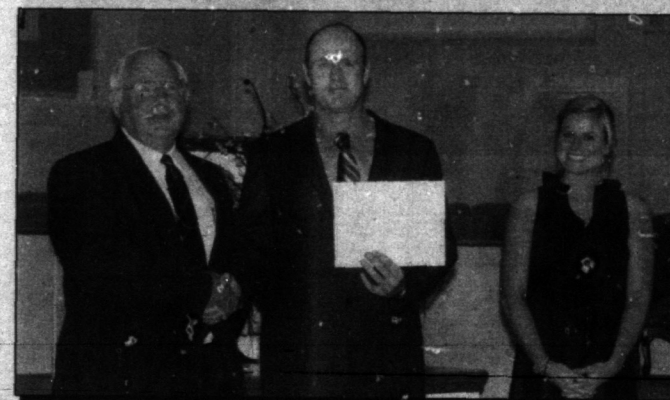


3. West Church, West



4. Valley Park Church, Sharkey-Issaquena Association

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



2. East Booneville Church, Booneville

1. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia, ordained James Fagan as deacon on Aug. 14. Shown are pastor Randy Gardner, Fagan, and Angie Fagan.

2. East Booneville Church, Booneville, held a deacon ordination service Aug. 28. Shown are deacons Joseph Stephens, Brad Boren, Boyce Barber, and transitional pastor P. J. Scott.

3. Clear Creek Church, Lafayette Association, celebrated its 175th anniversary Aug. 14. Shown is pastor Charles Lipe accepting a framed congratulatory certificate from Truman Scarborough on behalf of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. The church was organized on Aug. 12, 1836.

4. Corinth Tallahatchie County, recently ordained Chuck Hathcock, left, as deacon Aug. 28. Also participating in the service were Kim Hathcock and Archie Goodwin.



3. Clear Creek Church, Lafayette Association



4. Hathcock ordination

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
info@msaudiollc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2830

MS POSITIONS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FANNIN IN BRANDON, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE FULL TIME POSITION OF WORSHIP PASTOR. Please e-mail resumes to das2166@yahoo.com or fax to 601-829-3406, attention Personnel Committee. For additional information, call the church office at 601-829-1004.

EAST HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MS, IS SEEKING A SENIOR PASTOR who can operate in a team approach with pastoral staff. Our total Sunday morning attendance is 200-225 with great potential in the community for growth. Send resume to randymccoy@bellsouth.net or Randy McCoy, 290 Tyler Willis Lane, Tupelo, MS 38804.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Resumes may be emailed to questions@cbchaven.org or mailed to P.O. Box 591, Brookhaven, MS, 39602.

ROSELAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH IN PICAYUNE, MS, IS SEEKING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR/MINISTER OF EDUCATION. Send resumes by e-mail to rbcpastor@yahoo.com or Roseland Park Baptist Church, Associate Pastor/Minister of Education Search Committee, 2130 Highway 11 N, Picayune, MS 39466.

THRASHER BAPTIST CHURCH IN PRENTISS COUNTY IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER. Resumes can be submitted to Music Minister Search Committee, 200 CR 1040, Booneville, MS 38829 or emailed to dougrakestraw@yahoo.com.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE SEEKS RESUMES FOR FULL TIME SENIOR PASTOR, upon the retirement of their pastor of 25 years. Arlington Heights Baptist, 3819 Arlington St., Pascagoula, MS 39581 OFFICE: 228-769-2789 or FAX 228 762 3020 Send resume via fax or email at arlington_church@bellsouth.net.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Send resumes to: Charlotte Newell, 1017 Common Street, Wesson, MS, 39191 or email to wanchar2353@att.net.

OLD RICE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON, MS IS SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Old Rice Road Baptist Church, 82 Old Rice Road, Madison, MS 39110 or via e-mail to orrbcc_hr_mailbox@comcast.net. Submittal deadline is October 1, 2011.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. White licensing



7. Ethel Church, Ethel



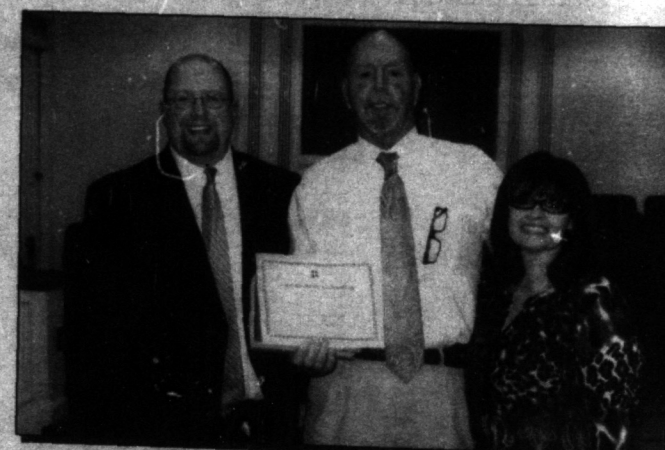
3. Concord Church, Tippah County



8. First Church, Wiggins



4. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach

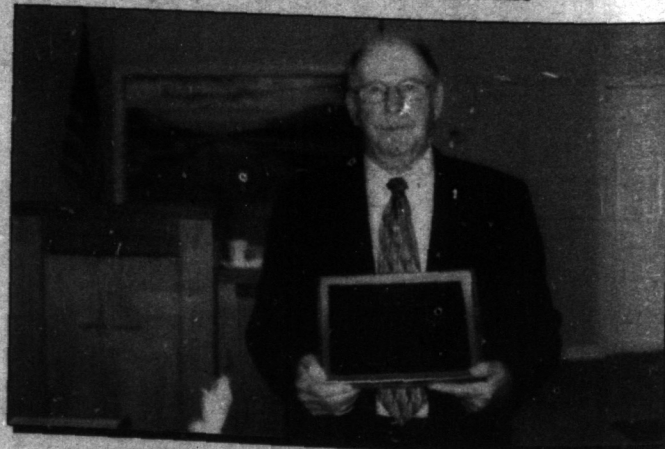


9. Meadville Church, Meadville



6. Canaan Church, Columbus

1. New Prospect Church, Oxford, presented Jon Tyler White with a certificate of license to the gospel ministry. White is a student at Blue Mountain College. Shown are Angie White, White, and pastor Ken White.
2. Montgomery Church, Lincoln County, hosted Chronicle in concert Sept. 4. A love offering was received.
3. Concord Church, Tippah County, honored recent graduates with Bibles. Shown are Stephen Walker, Bailey Walker, Cheyenne Perrigo, and Miranda Hatfield.
4. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach, held a deacon ordination and installation service for Jay McCormick and Jerry Williamson. Shown are Williamson, Frances Williamson, Janie McCormick, McCormick, and pastor Charles Bonner.
5. First Church, Eupora, hosted New Ground Trio in concert Sept. 4.
6. Canaan Church, Columbus, ordained Russell Flood and Tommy Doughty, Jr., to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor PJ Mortensen, Flood, Dan Robertson, Doughty, and pastor Terry Edwards of Center Hill Church.
7. Ethel Church, Ethel, ordained Andy Bain as deacon July 31. Shown are Chester Carlisle, Bain, and pastor Joey Barnard.
8. First Church, Wiggins, ordained three new deacons Aug. 28. Shown are Sonny Woodard, Tadd Parsons, Todd Miller, and Wiley Abel, pastor.
9. Ordination services were held Aug. 28 at Meadville Church, Meadville, for David Southerland. Shown are pastor Johnny Bowlin, Southerland, and Eileen Southerland.
10. Dry Creek Church, Winston Association, recognized pastor Vernell Daniels for 50 years of ministry, 15 of which were at Dry Creek. He is shown with a plaque presented by the church. He also received a certificate of recognition from Winston Association and a letter of commendation from Governor Haley Barbour.



10. Daniels

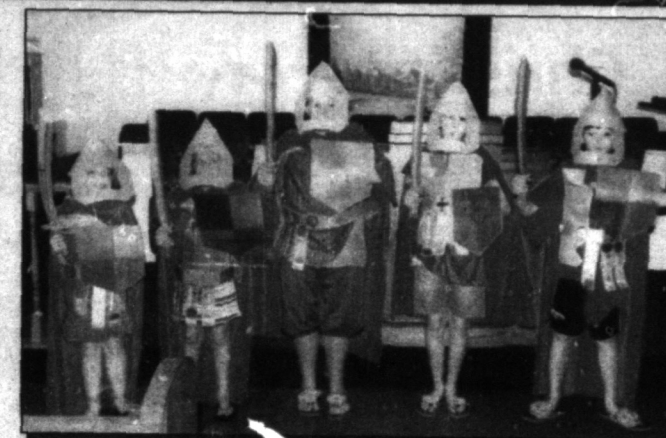
JUST FOR THE RECORD



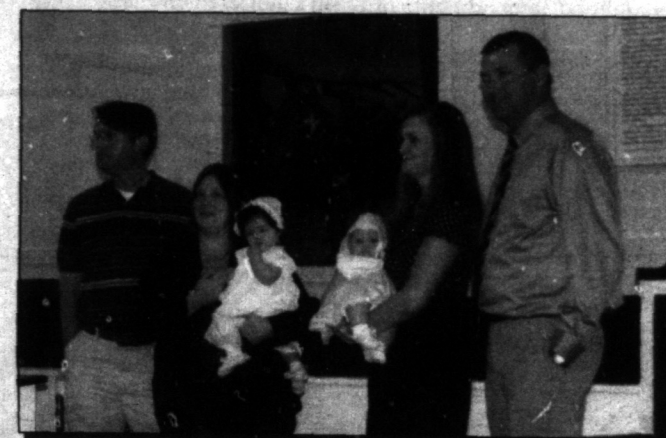
1.1 Parkway Church, Houston, children's Bible drillers



1.2 Parkway Church, Houston, youth Bible drillers



2. Branch Church, Morton



4. Shiloh Church, Marion County

1. Parkway Church, Houston, recognizes its children's and youth Bible drillers. Shown are the children's group and the youth group.
2. Faye Myatt, Branch Church, Morton, taught a study on the armor of God to the children of the church. Each child made the armor they are wearing. Shown are Avery Gordon, Vaden and Michael Latham, Hunter Ragan, and Zachary Irby.
3. Interstate Church, Shaw, is hosting a retirement reception for Robert and Judy Haney, Sept. 25, 2 - 5 p.m., on the occasion of his retirement from the church.
4. Shiloh Church, Marion County, held a baby dedication Sept. 4. Shown, from left, are Chris Barrow, Cale and Amber Tynes with Madylyn; and Vicki and Ryan Davis with Kaydence.
5. New Heights Church, Summit, recently celebrated pastor Rick Kennedy and his wife, Sandra's, 40th year in ministry and 40th year of marriage.

COLLEGE NEWS



1. Lott and students



2. Hataway

1. Sen. Trent Lott, former senator for Mississippi, poses for a photo with William Carey University students at the first Endowed Scholarship Dinner held at Southern Oaks House and Gardens on September 1. In excess of \$350,000 was raised for scholarships. The two organizations represented by the students are Carey Connection, WCU's student ambassadors, and Student Foundation, an organization that raises money for scholarships.
2. Mississippi College professor Michael Hataway has been honored as Hinds Community College Alumnus of the Year. He is being honored September 27th, 6 p.m., at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center. For more information, contact the Hinds Institutional Advancement office at (601) 857-3363. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25.
3. Mississippi College will host a dyslexia conference Oct. 3. For more information contact Mitti Bilbo, director of the university's Dyslexia Education Center at (601) 925-7649 or MBilbo@mc.edu.
4. Mississippi College's Fall Preview Day on September 17 will include entertainment supplied by the Brick Street Trio, meetings with MC leaders, campus tours and a Choctaws football game. The sessions begin with check-in at 11:30 a.m. that Saturday in the B.C. Rogers Student Center with lunch provided in Anderson Hall on the Clinton campus. The final activity of the day will be the MC football game against Hardin-Simmons.

The kickoff at Robinson-Hale Stadium will be at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Brandi Chancellor, coordinator of transfer recruitment in the Office of Enrollment Services, at (601) 925-3839.

5. On August 1 Mississippi College became a smoke-free campus. In late August, officials with the Mississippi Tobacco Free coalition of Hinds County visited the Clinton campus to celebrate the news. Today at least 530 colleges across the nation are 100 percent smoke-free. The list in Mississippi includes Blue Mountain College, Itawamba Community College and Northeast Mississippi Community College.

6. Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant and Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny DuPre are expected to tackle issues like education, the state's struggling economy and healthcare during an October 14 gubernatorial debate hosted by the Mississippi College School of Law. Coming less than a month before the November 8 general election, the 90-minute program will be televised statewide by WLBT-TV 3 in Jackson. The event at the law school in downtown Jackson begins at 7 p.m. with Bryant, the Republican candidate, verbally sparring with his Democratic rival Dupree.

Vote YES on Pro-Life, Personhood Amendment

By Rob Chambers
Miss. Baptist Christian Action
Commission

The Mississippi Supreme Court, consisting of nine elected justices, handed down a 7-2 decision that Mississippians have a right to vote for the personhood amendment on Nov. 8th.

The justices supporting Mississippians' right to vote are: Chief Justice William L. (Bill) Waller, Jr., Presiding Justice George C. Carlson, Jr., Presiding Justice Jess H. Dickinson, Associate Justice Michael K. Randolph, Associate Justice Ann H. Lamar, Associate Justice David A. Chandler, and Associate Justice Randy G. Pierce. Those opposed are Associate Justice James W. Kitchens and Associate Justice Leslie D. King.

The personhood amendment will define the term 'person' under the Mississippi Constitution's Bill of Rights as any human being regardless of age, physical or mental condition, or method of reproduction — natural or artificial.

It is critical that this amendment pass in Mississippi because other states and even other nations are watching to see if one of the most pro-life states will declare the rights of

the unborn. If it can pass in Mississippi, it will obviously give hope to other states in passing such an amendment, but if it does not, then it communicates a message of despair since not even one of the most pro-life states can pass it.

This amendment will ensure that all human beings in Mississippi are protected under the Mississippi Constitution's Bill of Rights which states that "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property except by due process of law," and the unborn are no less privileged to these God-ordained rights under the Mississippi Constitution than any other human being.

In fact, the nation's founding fathers stated this in the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." They recognized that a human being's right to live and to be free is obvious



Chambers

and was not something certain people could withhold from others, and the personhood amendment reinforces this very fact.

In anticipation of this amendment in 2009, messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention overwhelmingly passed a resolution that affirms the intent of the personhood amendment.

This resolution states that "Mississippi Baptists affirm all just and legal pro-life efforts that support the biblical principle that all unborn human life are persons." So, when going to the polls on November 8th, it is important to vote yes and not leave it blank.

In order for this amendment to pass, the total number of 'yes' and 'no' votes must not be less than forty percent (40%) of the total votes that are cast. Again, it is very important that people vote 'yes' on the amendment and that people encourage others to vote for it as well because passing this amendment is not a 'slam dunk'.

Intense opposition is expected from out-of-state special interest groups. Planned

Parenthood and the ACLU, and Jackson's National Organization for Women who have placed their leaders in position in Mississippi to lead and finance a deceptive campaign under the guise of the organization called 'Mississippians for Healthy Families.'

Colossians 2:8 says, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." Mississippians for Healthy Families will likely use deceit and the basic principles of the world to mislead Mississippians into what 'they' think is best for the unborn according to their own traditions.

They will say that this amendment legalizes cloning or will prevent women from using IVF to get pregnant; this is categorically false. The amendment simply states that an unborn child is still a person even if human reproduction is the result of an unnatural means like cloning. Cloning human beings is illegal in Mississippi, but if the amendment passes and cloning were to become legal — God forbid — then scientists could not kill cloned persons for embryonic

stem cell research purposes, for example.

Reproductive therapy, IVF, on the other hand, is legal. If this amendment passes, IVF will still be legal and women can still use IVF to get pregnant. The amendment simply declares that embryos who are unnaturally reproduced in a test tube or petri dish still have the same right-to-life as any other human person.

Finally, this is not a political issue and pastors ought not to cower away from supporting it. It is a Biblical issue. It is a moral issue. It does not relate to candidates. The IRS does not impose limitations on pastors and churches speaking on moral and ethical issues.

For more information on the amendment, IRS regulations, or to learn how you and your church can support the pro-life, personhood amendment, please contact the CAC or go to www.ChristianAction.com and look under Hot Topics on the home page or go to www.YesOn26.net or www.PersonhoodMississippi.com.

Chambers can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or at rchambers@christianaction.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? We have piano CDs for Churches to Sing By! Hymns, Gospel, Praise, Hundred of Songs! Call for FREE DEMO! Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800 www.worshipresources.com Special Church Pricing!

MADISON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS NOW RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS. Send resumes to Whitesburg Baptist Church, 6806 Whitesburg Dr., Huntsville, AL 35802 or email to terry.heard@wbcares.org

GATLINBURG CONDO FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, walk to pkwy. \$70/night. 822-922-0401/pdw4760@att.net

SENIOR ADULT GET-A-WAY FOR THE DAY PROGRAM is now available for booking. The program includes a Southern Gospel concert, a hot lunch, and a free gift for each attendee from our gift shop. The cost is \$10.00 per person. To book your outing, contact Rev. Richard C. Arceneaux at 601-807-1755.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS AND REPAIRS. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARLISLE, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. -Conservative in doctrine -Traditional music Please send resume to: First Baptist Church PO Box 25 Carlisle, AR 72024

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

BETSY'S LIL' CABINS — Get away to a touch of country — for a brochure call 601-940-6841

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, AL. Rent Direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. Fall Special 4 Nights Eff Unit (2 adults & kids) \$365.00. Includes Everything. 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom units also available. Even lower prices for those in the Ministry. 205-556-0368 205-752-1231. www.gulfshorescondos.com

EVERYDAY BASIC HOUSE CLEANING AND ORGANIZING — PET FRIENDLY — "HIGHLY RECOMMENDED." 601-918-6947.

BAPTIST MINISTER/SOLOIST WITH 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE SEEKING A SMALL CHURCH TO PASTOR. Also available for supply preaching, interim pastor, revivals & gospel concerts. Call 601-807-1755. Living about 20 miles from Brookhaven, Mississippi.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

So. Baptists churches adopting background checks

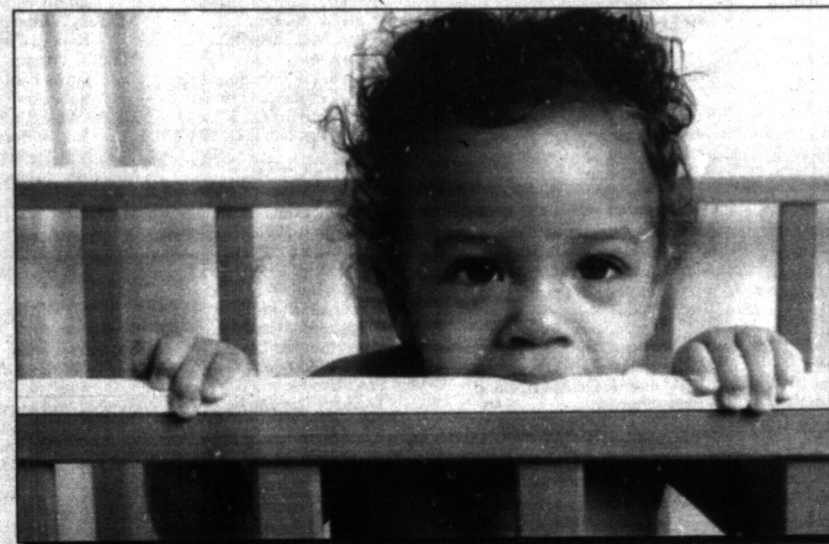
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — More than 25,000 background checks conducted by churches or organizations on prospective workers in the past three years have turned up more than 1,600 felony offenses, with the number of organizations conducting background checks having risen 27% in the past year, according to LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Since launching LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks in 2008, more than 1,656 different churches or organizations have conducted 25,470 background checks. Of those, more than 45% (1,656) returned a criminal "hit" — any kind of incident ranging from minor traffic violations to felony convictions, explained Jennie Taylor, marketing coordinator in LifeWay's direct marketing department.

Excluding traffic and non-traffic infractions (jay-walking, noise pollution, etc.), more than 20% (5,107 searches) returned records with misdemeanor or felony results. More than 1,000 of those 5,107 searches returned felony offenses.

In 2003, LifeWay Christian Resources endorsed backgroundchecks.com to offer background screenings for churches and religious organizations at discounted prices. Through LifeWay's OneSource program, encompassing products and services for churches and religious organizations that LifeWay has endorsed, all churches and religious organizations can receive discounts on background screenings for their camp counselors, bus drivers, staff, volunteers, and others.

"Churches are realizing that this is something they need to be doing,"



SAFE FOR CHILDREN — Churches intent on enhancing the protection of children in their care have been increasing their usage of a background checks service available through LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. With a database of over 400 million criminal records, the service has an extensive collection of public record sources and can deliver reports in a concise and user-friendly format. (BP photo)

Taylor said. "With the OneSource program we've made it more affordable."

Backgroundchecks.com works with customers based on their specific needs and will consult with churches one-on-one to help select the best screening process for their particular situation, Taylor said.

"We've had tremendous feedback from churches and individuals who have used this service," she said.

"Already we've seen more than a 27% increase in participation this year over

last year. That just goes to show how important this service is to churches."

Churches can conduct due diligence, Taylor said, by utilizing backgroundchecks.com as a step in their security and safety policy. With a database of over 400 million criminal records, backgroundchecks.com has an extensive collection of public record sources and can deliver reports in a concise and user-friendly format.

Fairview Church in Columbus started using backgroundchecks.com

in 2010. "Our mission is to tell others about Jesus Christ," said Aubrey Adair, volunteer security team chairman at Fairview Church.

"We have a lot of young people and children and we want to provide a safe environment for them and for other worshippers. For any worker who will be working with children 17 years and younger and for our security volunteers, we ask them to submit to a background check. This is not a foolproof process, but it's a stronger method than doing nothing at all," Adair said, adding that the church also uses the service for its Vacation Bible School.

Fairview Church has been pleased with the service from backgroundchecks.com, including the turnaround time which gives results within minutes, Adair said.

"They helped us set the program up and they gave us some great information," he said. "We were facing a generational change at church with a lot of younger families coming in. This level of safety and precaution really appealed to them."

For more information, visit LifeWay.com/backgroundchecks or call (800) 464-2799. For additional resources to help churches prevent the devastating effects of sexual abuse and other moral failures by staff members or volunteers, visit www.sbc.net/localchurches/ministryhelp.asp and <http://sblife.net/pdf/ProtectingOurChildren.pdf>.

Baptist Press note: Statistics reported in this article are not derived from a representative sample but reflect clients who purchased background check services through LifeWay without regard to organizational type, denomination, region, demographic makeup, or other factors.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Friendship Church, Aberdeen: 54th anniversary, Sept. 25; visiting, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Todd Bowen, speaker; Wayne Baggett, music; Mark Thornton, pastor.

Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg: Revival, Sept. 18 - 21; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6 p.m.; Bruce Cappleman, Don Stuart, Glen Davis, and Scott Murphy, speakers.

Macedonia Church, Blue Mountain: Homecoming, Sept. 25; services, 11 a.m., followed by pot luck lunch and 1:30 p.m. singing with 4 Ever Praise; Terry Hall, pastor and speaker. Revival, Sept. 26 - 28, 7 p.m.; Jerry Bingham, speaker.

First Church, Fannin: Revival, Sept. 18 - 21; Sun., 8:30 and 10:45 a.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Jay Richardson, Rob Futral, Andy Boles, and Scott Thomas, speakers.

New Providence, Leake County: Homecoming, Sept.

18; registration, 9 a.m.; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; Janice W. King and Pam W. Harris, music; Smith Sanders, pastor and speaker.

Fellowship Church, Ripley: Revival, Sept. 18 - 21; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Bostick, speaker; Chris Reaves, music; Bill Baker, pastor.

Anchor Church, Lafayette County: Revival, Sept. 25 - 28, 7 p.m.; Phil Glisson, speaker; Price Harris, music.

First Church, Beaumont: Revival, Sept. 18 - 22; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Thurs., 7 p.m.; James Ross, speaker; Nick Ulmer, pastor.

Plainway Church, Laurel: Revival, Sept. 25 - 27; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Tues., 6:30 p.m.; Charles Jones, speaker.

Parkway Church, Houston: Revival, Sept. 25 - 28; Sun., 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rex Yancey, speaker; Ray Walker, music; Randy Rinehart, pastor.

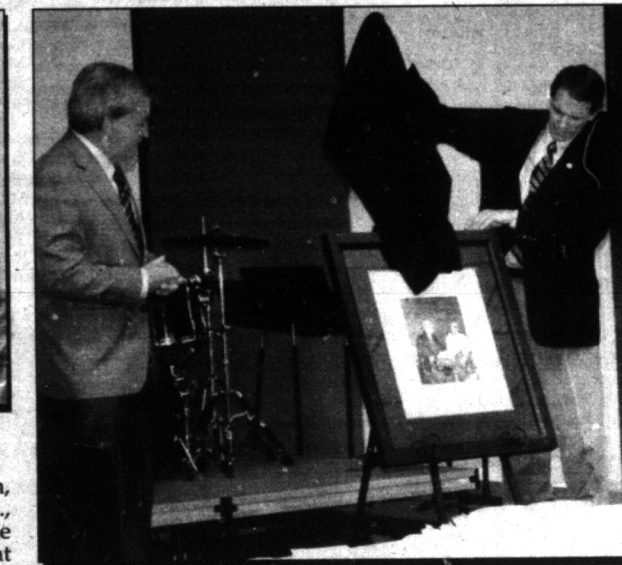
COLLEGE NEWS



1. English

1. Stephen English, Jr., Jacksonville, Fla., received the Wayne Parker Student Leadership Award at Mississippi College, a recognition given to physician assistant students for their leadership, academic excellence and compassionate, caring attitudes toward patients and fellow students.

2. Bennie Crockett, pro-



2. Noonkester and Crockett

fessor of religion and philosophy and vice president for institutional effectiveness and long range planning at William Carey University, is shown unveiling the lithograph of a rare painting

of William Carey that he and (left) Myron Noonkester, dean of the Noonkester School of Arts and Letters and chair for department of history, recently purchased for the Carey Center they co-direct.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JULY 2011

HONORS

All Teachers, Corinth Elem. School
Ms. Beverly Lilly
Office Staff, Corinth Elem. School
Ms. Beverly Lilly
Mary Evelyn Bowie
Ms. Julie H. Halfacre
Mrs. Eunice Fuqua
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Dr. John McCall
Gerald & Patricia Haselman
Mr. Jim McKennon
Mr. Michael McKennon
Tayna Nelson, Asst. Prin.
Corinth Elem Schl
Mitchell & Judy Smith
Ms. Joyce Hardy
Denise Webb-Harrell, Prin.
Corinth Elem Schl
Ms. Beverly Lilly
Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Ratliff

MEMORIALS

Carmen Russell Evans Leggett
Retriever of Jackson, Inc.
Mrs. Marie Little
Mrs. Ida Mae Bridges
Mrs. Norma Logan
Kenneth & Syble Lee
Durwood Long
Phile & Stuart Allen
Leon C. Marcus
David & Virginia Marcus
Mary Lucille Martin
Albert & Marcell Hempfahl
Mrs. Jane Martiniere
Mrs. Joyce C. Allen
Mr. Jim Mathis
Jim & June Blair
Mr. Frank P. Matulich
Mr. William C. Callender
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Dantin
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Dr. Bryan McCraw
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox

Patsy McCrooy
James & Peggy Hartsfield
Omarette McGregor
Cornerstone SSC, FBC
Indianola
Louise McKelroy
Cheryl Leigh, MaryLynn & Ralph Perkins
Martha Ann McKinley
Ad. 5 Men's SSC, FBC
McComb
Adult 5 Men's SSC, FBC, McComb
Ms. Jeanne Y. Tapp
Juanita Melton
Paul & Thelma Adams
Donald Messer
Elizabeth & Keith Sangwin
Mr. Gene Millsaps
The William Dunn Family
Home LLP
Franny Mitchell
Shirley Simmons
Bob Mixon
Fred & Mary Margaret Tatum
Scott Moore
Jeanette & Allen Mapp
Bryan Morgan
Charles & Patsy Keeler
Mary Jo "Jodie" Morgan
Fred & Mary Margaret Tatum
Mrs. Norma Munn
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Brewer
Mary and Bob Hanvey
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Scruggs
Harold Murphy
Cecil Rhodes SS, FBC
Brookhaven
John W. Norton
Jerry & Janie Sisco
Preston Thomas Owens
Neil Smith SSC, Pleasant Hill BC
Walter Parrish
Ms. Katie Gardner
Dell Passer
Walter Barbee
Mr. E. C. Patterson
John & Jean Messer
Ms. Carolyn L. Rigdon
Roy Peacock
Pat & Mary Ingram

Modena Petty
Jimmy & Joan Fleming
Mrs. Lillian Kyle
Rev. Robert & Martha Smith
Joseph Barney Pickett
Maurice, Hart, Pat & Joan Beatty
Mr. Robert Lee Pierce
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb
Robert Pierce
Annette & John Drennan
Virginia Popham
Woodmen of the World, Ldg. 40
James Madison Porter
Buddy & Linda Meyer
Mavis Posey
Morgan Chapel BC WMU
Roger Prall Jr.
Heath, Susan, Alix & Abby Lynch
Mr. Larry Pressly
James & Diane Copeland
Frances Prewitt
Phile & Stuart Allen
George Purvis
Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Speights Jr.
Annie Ramshure
Debbie Ingram
Charles P. Rankin
Pine Burr BC, Columbia
Ricky Ray
Faith Class
Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Gipson
Ray Renfro
Branch BC, Morton
Jimmie Riley
Pine Burr BC, Columbia
Hazel Round
Mrs. Darthy T. Whitten
Leo Benson Routh
Ms. Margaret Reitmeyer
Mr. & Mrs. Don Aurandt
Joan Rutland
Arlington Heights BC, Pascagoula
Walter Salazar
Mr. Donald E. Ganas
Marsha Salter
Agape SSC, Bovina BC, Vicksburg
Bobby Sanders
Mrs. Libby Gordon
Willie Mae Seal
Gary & Sandra Mitchell
Fred Shadrach
Nita & Ed Fumer
Sarah Shaw
Ms. Shirlene Gill
Mrs. Rhonda Shiller
Mrs. Allyne Statham
Marguerite Singleton
Gordon & Will Covington
Mr. & Mrs. Jackey Simmons
Mrs. Kate Skelton
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Mr. James T. Slocum
James & Diane Copeland
Elaine Smith
Ms. Katherine Smith & Amanda
Jewell H. Smith
Jerry & Janie Sisco
Mrs. Ida Mae Smith
Ad. 3 Ladies & Mens SSC, Unity BC
Rev. & Mrs. Sollie Smith
Joyce & Dean Garrett
Dan Southerland
Larry & Mary Glass
Paul Spears
Brenda & Anthony Box
Mildred Spoles
Lorena Dean
Milton & Sandra Guice
Dorothy Starrett
Kathryn Moody SSC, FBC
Poplarville
Mrs. Betty Strange
The Steve Weeks Family
Herbert Stubbs
Mrs. Jewel Peeples
Mr. George Randle Thomas
BancorpSouth, Tupelo
Mrs. Mary O. Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Henry M. Burkhalter
Walt, Angela, Luke & Wilson Dallas
James & Marcia Eckert
Charles & Annis Hill
Glen & Laurin Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Rivers Myres
Tap Parker
Elbert & Mary Buckelew

Laurie & Terry Breedlove
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Cook
Miss Megan Cook
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Cory
Richard & Phyllis Cowart
Mr. Myra Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Russell E. Hawkins
John & Joy Ann Hennessey
Mrs. Constance Hinman
Betty Sue & Stan Kline
Dr. & Mrs. James H. May & David
Mrs. David J. May
Ray & Marlene McLaurin
Don & Deanna Miller
Ms. Ann B. Portis
Ms. Julianne P. Portis
Mr. Bobby D. Robinson
John & Leah Wheelless
Thomas Wayne Thornton
Wiggins BC, Carthage
Mrs. Myla Ruth Travis
Floyd & Jacqueline Fuqua
Miss Ethel Trimble
David & Kay Hailey
Jeanette & Allen Mapp
Mr. Alanson V. Turnbough
Mr. Kirk G. Taylor

Mr. Thomas Turner Jr.
Betty & Scott McCay
Dean Vicknair
Praise SSC, FBC McComb
Jimmy & Jo Ann Carruth
Mr. Ken Warbington
Kay & Curtis Buchanan
Timothy Warren
James Paul & Arlene Robinson
Hardy White Sr.
Tinsley Baptist Church
Mrs. Helen A. Harris
Mrs. Ruby Rannels Whitten
Galilee BC, Monticello
Mr. Keith Wicker
Garry & Ann Austin
Clay & Paula Caston
Ms. Mary Allen Varnell
Ed Wicks
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Potter
Chase Wilbanks
Charles & Nancy Wilbanks
Hershel Wilbourn
Wallace & Carol Clay
Midge Wilkinson
Wesley & Darnell Causey

Hilton & Pauline Hollingsworth
Mrs. Janie B. Wilkinson
James & Diane Copeland
Mr. Floyd "Butch" Williams Jr.
James & Diane Copeland
Mr. James Williams
Harry Lott's SSC, Holcomb BC
Ray Williams
Cecil & Penny Washington
Terry Glen Wilson Sr.
Cornwell Well Service, Inc.
Margaret Gardner Wilson
Mr. Robert C. Gillaspay
Mary Dell Wilson
Branch BC, Morton
Rev. John Earl Womack
Roy & Betty Hendricks
Mildred G. Wood
Ms. Wanda S. Tedder
Mrs. Margaret Wooten
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Mr. C. N. Wray
Joe B. Hartley SSC, FBC
Batesville
Annice Wright
Terry & Julia Blalock



The G.R.A.C.E. Gals (Growing Reaching as Christ Empowers) of Parkway Baptist Church and Yockanookany Baptist Church, both in Kosciusko, recently focused on The Baptist Children's Village at their September meeting. The ladies brought school supplies and cleaning supplies to help the ministry, and heard a presentation from BCV Public Relations Associate, Celeste Cade.

Planning for the New Church Year

As you plan your programs for your church groups in this new church year, including WMU, Men's Ministry,

and Senior Adults, please request a speaker from The Baptist Children's Village. We have representatives who travel all across the state and will make a presentation to accommodate your program. Our representatives are pleased to meet with your group no matter whether the group is large or small. Please call Celeste Cade, 601-922-2242 or e-mail ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com, to reserve your date and time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Find Your Place of Service

Romans 12:3-15

By Huey Dedmon

One of my favorite things to do is to take a group whitewater rafting. It is so much fun and it is a great opportunity to see how different people respond to intense situations. In those situations you quickly learn what rafting skills you do and do not have. Do you paddle best on the right or left, are you best in the front or back of the raft? And probably most important can you emotionally handle seeing the rapids ahead without freaking out? We all have a gift or skill that God has given us and He expects us to use it to serve Him. It seems many people in church today have opted out of service. I know from my rafting experience that if everyone does not paddle in harmony then it will

not be a pleasant trip down the river. My church experience has taught me the same thing. Paul uses our passage this week to help us focus on finding our place of service in the church.

Serve in the Body Romans 12:3-5

If you want to have a great experience whitewater rafting, you must first learn to have the right perspective on the role you play. If you do not follow the guide's instructions, then you will upset the path of the entire raft. Paul reminds us in verse three to be careful not to think our role is more valuable than anyone else's role. He cautions us to "think sensibly" (HCSB) because God has gifted all of us to serve in some



Dedmon

way. We must understand how interconnected our gifts are. While we consider the Pastor as the most important role in the church, what level of ministry would there be if he did not have faithful deacons, committed Sunday School teachers, and excited ministry leaders who use their gifts to serve in the body of Christ? While we all have different gifts, we are reminded in verse 5 that we are one body in Christ. It is time we all put our paddles in the water and paddle with all our hearts.

Serve Through Giftedness Romans 12:6-8

In this passage, Paul identifies a variety of spiritual gifts. He was not trying to give us an exhaustive or all-conclusive list. His purpose was to admonish us to use the gift we have without reservation. Notice he names a gift and then he gives us our response to

having that gift. If we have the gift of service then we are to serve; if teaching, then teach; if giving, then give with generosity, etc.... As members of the body we need to ask God to show us our gift and how we should be using that gift in the church. I often hear church members say they do not serve because they do not have any gifts. In this passage God says we have all been given a gift. The problem therein is we are not all asking God to show us our gift or we know our gift but refuse to use it. When this happens it damages the body. The challenge is to get the 'sister' to be a server!

Serve with Godly Attitudes Romans 12:9-15

My wife is a middle school teacher. She spends much of her time trying to teach students that their success in life is very much dependent on their attitude. Paul uses this section of scripture to emphasize that service is as much a matter of attitude as action.

When you look at the overall theme of the Bible it screams LOVE! The actions and attitudes of God are filtered through His love for us. As God's children, we must view fellow believers and those who are lost through the love of God. Love should govern all our attitudes, therefore affecting our actions. If we serve with this kind of attitude then our service is not limited to Sundays and Wednesdays, it permeates our lives seven days a week.

I am convinced that the true strength of the church lies in the hands of those who know their spiritual gift and simply serve Him. You never see them on stage, read about them in the newsletter, or see their picture on the projection screen, but you know they are there and you are very thankful for them.

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Good News to Believe

ROMANS 3:28-4:5, 4:16-25

By Marion D. Duncan

Just suppose for the purpose of emphasis that God's plan for salvation was dependent on man's accomplished works. "Bring up" your mental screen -- as you "search," do you find the "sport" of boasting on every channel? -- heavenly portals filled with resounding gongs or clanging cymbals in prelude to the frenzied fiery tongues bragging unabashedly of the unsurpassed wondrous works of those already gathered along with "heaven's latest neophyte."

"So do we have a reason to brag about ourselves? No! And why not? It is the way of faith that stops all bragging, not the way of trying to obey the law. A person is made right with God through faith, not through obeying the law." (Romans 3:27-28, New Century Version)

Salvation is not about being good enough to get God's approval; neither is it about merely accepting the truth concerning Jesus and what He did to provide salvation. It is about believing that faith in Jesus is the only way to receive salvation, and salvation comes only by trusting in Jesus Christ, committing oneself to Him, for salvation.

Paul has been talking about faith so he turns to the great example of faith, that of Abraham, the father of the Hebrew nation. God had come to Abraham promised him that he would father a great nation if he would take a giant venture of faith as He would direct him. Abraham completely abandoned his life and gave himself to God, trusting God to keep the promise He made to him. "Abraham believed God, and God accepted Abraham's faith,



Duncan

live and, through the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ, His people receive life everlasting.

To the Jew, an uncircumcised man was literally not a Jew regardless of his parentage. If a Gentile accepted the Jewish faith, he could not come fully into Judaism without baptism, sacrifice, and circumcision. Therefore, it seemed important to the one questioning Paul in verse nine to know whether the blessing came to Abraham before or after he was circumcised. The answer was that Abraham was not circumcised until fourteen years after his call and had entered into this unique relationship with God and, therefore, received the

blessing before circumcision. (Genesis 17:10ff)

Abraham knew God as the promise-keeping sovereign God who gave life to the dead and created something out of nothing. (NCV) God's promise to Abraham was received by faith and was a free gift from Him available to all whether Jews or Gentiles, even to us today.

Faith brings us into God's favor, and since, human effort cannot do this, it becomes obvious that if we are to be saved there must be another way about which Paul says, "Therefore it is out of faith that it might be by grace." (4:16a) Then, faith brings us into God's family understanding that all who believe, Jew or Gentile, are the spiritual children of Abraham and members of God's family. (Exploring Romans, John Phillips)

There was no realistic hope of Abraham's having children at this point in his life for he was almost a hundred years old, much past the age of having children, and Sarah had not been able to have children throughout their marriage.

But, Abraham took God at his word never doubting that God would keep His promise and never ceasing to believe -- growing stronger in his faith and praising God being fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He promised. In Romans 4:22, Paul declares, "God accepted Abraham's faith, and that faith made him right with God." (NCV) "And once again, it was faith that was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. It was this willingness to take God at His word which put Abraham into the right relationship with God." (The Letter to the Romans, by William Barclay.)

Two paths to salvation are pictured -- (1) trying to earn salvation through human wisdom and ability and (2) trusting by faith in the Son of God for the free gift of salvation. Like Abraham, David, and Paul, we must accept that salvation is by faith and faith alone.

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Tebow says faith important during rough NFL times

DENVER (BP) — Despite criticism of his play by football analysts and possible demotion to third-string status, Denver Broncos second-year quarterback Tim Tebow has maintained a positive outlook and says his faith in the Lord has given him strength.

"Others who say I won't make it are wrong," Tebow said in a Denver Post article in early August. "They don't know what I'm capable of and what's inside me. My family and my friends have been bothered by what's gone on, and I tell them to pay no attention to it. I'm relying as always on my faith."

Tebow, the first-round draft pick of the Broncos in 2010, opened his 2011 National Football League (NFL) season on Sept. 12 as the team's backup quarterback behind starter Kyle Orton. The Oakland Raiders defeated the Broncos 23-20.

Prior to the start of training camp, some speculated that the Broncos might trade Orton and that Tebow would be in the mix for the starting job — but his training camp performance failed to impress the team and Tebow may end up as the team's third-string quarterback behind former Notre Dame star Brady Quinn.

Several media critics have been vocal about their lack of confidence in Tebow's ability. "He can't play. He can't throw," CBS Sports analyst Boomer Esiason said, as quoted in USA Today. "I'm not here to insult him. The reality is he was a great college football player, maybe the great-

est college football player of his time but he's not an NFL quarterback right now."

"Just because he's God-fearing, and a great person off the field, and was a winner with the team that had the best athletes in college football, doesn't mean his game is going to translate to the NFL."

ESPN analyst and former NFL running back Merrill Hoge wrote on Twitter that it was "embarrassing" to think the Broncos could win with Tebow as quarterback. ESPN columnist Rick Reilly said Tebow was a "nice kid, sincere as a first kiss, but he's not ready yet, might never be ready. Somebody alert the Filipino missionaries. If he doesn't improve, he might be among them sooner than we thought."

Tebow's parents are longtime independent Christian missionaries in the Philippines, where Tim was born.

Some commentators have come to Tebow's defense. CBS Sports analyst Randy Cross said Tebow is being unfairly hammered because of his Christian faith.

"People, especially the media, root against him because of what he stands for," Cross said, as quoted in USA Today. "My personal belief is there are people in the media, people in the stands, who are predisposed to see a guy like that fail... Just because he's so public about the way he feels."

Jim Shaddix, senior pastor of Riverside Church in Denver, said Tebow has consistently

spoken for Christ even "when worldly distractions seem to get the most air time."

"His words and actions have demonstrated that the ultimate goal of life is calling attention to Christ and not seeking relief from life's challenges, push-backs, and attacks," Shaddix said. "Tebow knows that your relationship with Christ doesn't determine whether or not you're successful in the NFL, nor does a successful NFL career determine your faithfulness to Christ."

If Tebow succeeds in the NFL, Shaddix said he'll use the platform to glorify God. If he doesn't make it in the NFL, "he'll find another platform to accomplish the same thing. That's what he lives for."

Tebow, a member of First Church in Jacksonville, FL, has remained upbeat. "I just have fun, you know, playing football," Tebow said in an ESPN story. "I love doing that, and so when I get an opportunity, just play. It feels good and I love doing it, so you know I'm not really down, no."

In a Denver Post story, Tebow said the criticism would only serve as fuel and "more motivation to work even harder and become even stronger."

"I'll practice as good as I can, but I know that I play even better, with the qualities I have — leadership, my ability to make something happen in games, winning," Tebow said, "and I know there are a lot of people who believe in me as a player and a person, and I don't want to let them down."



HANGING IN THERE — Former University of Florida standout and Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow, known widely for his Christian witness and lifestyle, has weathered a difficult pair of seasons in the National Football League by relying on his faith. Tebow's parents are independent Christian missionaries in the Philippines and he frequently goes on mission trips associated with their ministry. (BP photo)

Chinese Christians persist despite pressure from government

BEIJING (BP) — On Aug. 28, five members of a house church in Fangshan, China, woke at 4 a.m. and traveled for two hours to a public square in Beijing in order to worship with members of the embattled Beijing Shouwang house church.

On their arrival at 7 a.m., waiting police sent the five back to their local police station, according to a report posted on Shouwang's Facebook page. Officials then urged them to sign documents repenting of their decision to support the Shouwang church. All five refused but were eventually released.

The Fangshan five are part of a growing wave of house church Christians determined despite the consequences to support Shouwang Church in its five-month-long stand for greater religious freedom.

Shouwang members have attempted to meet in the outdoor venue every Sunday since April 11, after government officials repeatedly denied them access to a permanent worship place.

Church leaders prayerfully decided on this course of action as a means of forcing the government to resolve their dilemma.

More than 600 arrests have been made over the last 22 weeks, including 15 on Aug. 28 and 12 arrests on Sept. 4. Police arrest the Christians before the service even starts and typically free them within 24 hours.

China's Domestic Security Protection Squad maintains constant surveillance outside the homes of senior church leaders while police camp outside the doors of other church members from Saturday night until noon Sunday when service times are technically over, according to China Aid.

"If those national security staff who persecuted believers assume that they can force Christians to give up by increasing the level of persecution... they are destined to be disappointed," Shouwang's leaders wrote in August. "Because our brothers and sisters, though have difficulties, are not overwhelmed by these

persecutions... [I]f it is God's will for us to face such difficulties, many believers are willing to suffer for our Lord."

On Aug. 14, police detained some 16 worshippers at the square. Among them was Wang Shuanyan of Beijing's Xinshu house church.

In a letter written after her release on Aug. 16 and smuggled out of China, Wang described how police detained her at 7 a.m. and took her to the Zhongguancun Boulevard police station. The previous Sunday, a police officer had threatened to lock her up for 48 hours if she persisted in coming to the worship site.

Wang came prepared with a sleeping bag. Throughout her detention, Shouwang church members, including the wife of senior pastor Jin Tianming, took turns waiting outside the police station for her release.

Wang described how she wrestled with her natural inclination to obey orders and her conviction that "the things [the officers] have done are violations of the law."

"I believe deeply that all things considered... Shouwang's outdoor worship, done [at] this time and this way, is right."

By the time fellow Xinshu church members convinced officers to allow Wang snacks and bottled water, Wang had decided to go on a hunger strike. "Was I fasting or on a hunger strike?" she wrote. "To me it was both. To God I prayed earnestly. To the relevant authorities I was protesting against the repeatedly occurring violence."

Some China watchers believe the government has shown relative toleration and restraint towards Shouwang's outdoor worship, but "this can only be true in comparison to extreme violence," Wang countered in her letter. "We are now used to unrighteous and illegal behavior."

Wang was one of 17 house church leaders who signed and submitted a groundbreaking petition to the National People's Congress (NPC) on May 10, calling for a complete overhaul of China's religious policy.

Police on May 31 detained another signatory, Shi Enhao, pastor of Sugian house church in Jiangsu Province and deputy chairman of the Chinese House Church Alliance (CHCA), in a church raid. In late July he was sentenced without trial to two years in a labor camp for "illegal meetings and illegal organizing of venues for religious meetings."

Police have since ordered Shi's church members to stop meeting and have confiscated musical instruments, choir robes and donations, according to China Aid.

Zhang Mingxuan, president of the Chinese House Church Alliance, said he previously had taught church members to abide by the law and respect the government but in return had been deprived of many rights, including the right to a passport.

Many others shared his fate, Zhang said, such as house church pastor Zhang Tieling of Fan County, Henan Province. Officials recently sealed Zhang Tieling's house with bricks and knocked his wife to the floor.